The TNA News

Mrs. Marion Russell
R. R. 3
Sidney OH 45365

Official Publication of Texas Numismatic Association
ANA 36980 — OIN 400

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TNA NEWS

TEXAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Founded 1960 Incorporated under Texas laws 1960

Vol. XII January, 1971 No. 1

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2ND ANNUAL COIN SHOW

MARCH 6-7, 1971

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Houston, Texas 77016

BILL BROTHERS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A reminder that nominations for TNA officers are due. Your club should have the district governors name to our secretary, and each nominee should have on file a short autobiography and letter of consent.

✧

Your 1971 dues are due at this time and I hope that each of you have taken care of this important matter. This is an election year and to be able to exercise your right to vote, your dues must be paid.

It isn't too early to start making plans for the 1971 convention. The place is Amarillo, and the dates are April 16, 17 & 18. General Chairman Lloyd Colvin assures us that this will be one of the most exciting conventions TNA has ever held. The auction will be held by Mike Brownlee, and as in the past Mike will have choice material on auction.

Thanks to my fellow officers and the entire membership for your support and help during 1970, and I'm looking forward to an even bigger and better 1971.

✧ ✧ ✧

COIN COLLECTING

Coin collecting did not become a significant hobby in America until the 1840's.

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The Government Of Texas Signatures On Second Issue Of Notes

By THOS. C. BAIN,
Dallas Texas

Sam Houston was elected president of the Government of Texas in the first national election in September, 1886. Stephen F. Austin and Henry Smith were named on the ballot also, but Henry Smith withdrew before the election in favor of Sam Houston. Mirabeau B. Lamar was elected vice-president and Sam Houston appointed Henry Smith as treasurer.

The second issue of The Government of Texas Notes was authorized by an act of Congress on June 9, 1837. These notes bear written dates of 1838 and 1839 with the "18" of the date printed and "38" and "39" handwritten. The notes consist of a $1., $3., $5., $10., $20. and $50 and all were issued from Houston.

Sam Houston was wounded in his right hand at the Battle of San Jacinto and he could not write very good so he appointed William G. Cook to sign his signature on all The Government of Texas Notes. Henry Smith signed all the notes himself.

Mirabeau B. Lamar was elected president on September 3, 1838 and took office on December 10, 1838. It is interesting to note that some notes of December 10, 1838 carry Sam Houston's signature which was the last day he was in office. Apparently the change in presidents was made around noon on December 10, 1838 as some notes of this date have Lamar's signature also.

Mirabeau B. Lamar also appointed William G. Cook to sign his name to the notes and he appointed R. G. Dunlap as treasurer.

Henry Smith had signed and numbered quite a few notes of the $10., $20., and $50. denominations on December 10, 1838, the last day of Sam Houston's term and the first day of Mirabeau B. Lamar's term. When Lamar took over he wanted to issue some notes on his first day in office, so he had William G. Cook sign his name to the notes that Henry Smith had signed and numbered. All of the notes of the Smith and Houston, and Smith and Lamar, dated December 10, 1838 have serial numbers above 3,000.

Henry Smith had signed more notes than were numbered under the Houston administration, so on December 15, 1838 when more notes were issued of the $10., $20., and $50. denomination they also carried Henry Smith's signature but they started over on the serial numbers, beginning with Number 1 as all the numbered notes of Houston administration had been issued. All notes issued on December 15, 1838 carry the Smith and Lamar signature, but very few were issued as I have never seen a note on this date with a serial number as high as 200.

It was not until December 24, 1838 that more notes were issued of the $10., $20., and $50. denomination. On this date, we find the first notes signed by R. G. Dunlap as treasurer and Mirabeau B. Lamar as president. For some reason, maybe for Christmas presents, a very few were signed, numbered and issued and it is also odd that they started the serial numbering over beginning with Serial Number 1. I say very few were signed for I have never seen a serial num-

(Continued on Page 9)

A NUMISMATIC PROFILE

Col Charles Wingo

Charles Wingo, Colonel, U. S. Army, Retired of Denison, Texas, was badly bitten by the collecting bug at the age of 15, when his best friend's uncle, a pioneer Denisonian, left a collection to the nephew.

Col. Wingo's collecting interest in coins and stamps has never left him. All through school, and through his entire military career, Charles has collected in the complete numismatic spectrum . . . ancients, medieval, foreign, and United States, finally specializing in U.S. paper money.

At the age of 20 he signed up with the 36th Signal Company, Texas National Guard, then quickly decided to make a career of the army. Within ten years, he'd served in all enlisted grades from buck private in the rear rank to a master sergeant, and won his commission as second lieutenant.

Spotting the executive talent in the young lieutenant, the powers-that-be sent Charles to various training school assignments and, within another ten years he was a major. Upon his return from service in the Italian campaign, back to more training assignments and then to Yokohama as executive officer of the 301th Signal Operations Battalion.

Another two years and he was lieutenant colonel and again to school the Command and General Staff College. Finally a chance to serve back in Texas as executive officer of the Fourth Army Signal Section at Fort Sam Houston for three years, then once again he was ordered to pack his toothbrush and served in Yugoslavia where he was promoted to colonel.

Col. Wingo's final assignment was as Deputy Chief of the Personnel and Training Division, Office of the Chief Signal Officer, who pinned upon Col. Wingo the Army Commendation Medal.

With such a successful career as an executive, upon his retirement and return to Denison, it's not surprising that Charles has been drafted into official positions in civic organizations in that area . . . yet he still takes time to pursue his numismatic hobby, to exhibit his paper money gems at local and national shows, to wield the gavel as proxy of Texomaland Coin and Stamp Club, and to hold down the TNA governorship of TNA District Five. And, if he's not careful Charles could head the Denison Lions Club next year, after he steps down from his current presidency of Friends of The Library.

Charles has commented that, of all organizations he's served, he's found the TNA board of governors to be a most business-like, co-operative, yet congenial and harmonious group of executives par excellence, and that he's mighty pleased to have been named a member of the TNA board. And, from what we hear from other TNA board members, they're mighty glad to have Charles on the board!

Before we sign off this profile, we might mention that Maxine this wife who's put up with Charles all these years of wandering over the world and Charles have two married children Marilyn and Roger. Whether or not Maxine also has been bitten by the collecting bug, we haven't learned, but she certainly has been exposed to it a plenty!

NEWS ROUNDUP — A.N.A.

By NORMA MATHER
Corpus Christi, Texas
A.N.A. Representative

Best wishes for the New Year!

We sincerely hope yours has been a happy holiday season with a choice numismatic goodie or two in your Christmas stocking. We wish for you only good in the year ahead.

✧

This is the time of year when a number of clubs are electing and installing new officers. Their names and addresses need to be sent to the executive director's office. Be sure that the name of your ANA club representative is included. Did your retiring president receive an ANA past president's medal as an expression of the club's appreciation of his efforts?

Some clubs have been pleased to note that dues notices recently received from Colorado Springs are for less than the regular $12. This shows that for each ANA member whose application was signed by the club representative your club got $1 credit. The offer continues.

The dues notices went to club secretaries listed in the headquarters files. Each year a few clubs become delinquent because the notice gets misplaced in transfer of records from retiring secretaries to the new ones. Consequently the clubs become delinquent. As a concerned 3 star member - local, TNA, ANA - you can inquire if the dues have been mailed especially if you don't find mention in the treasurer's report. And, of course, you'll be sure to send yours in if you haven't already.

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One of the most exciting items of numismatic interest currently, one which will be receiving much attention as it develops and can have a real impact on the hobby, is that of appropriate issues in commemoration of the American Revolution Bicentennial five years hence.

President Bergen is representing ANA in a group of outstanding numismatists named to the Coins and Medals Advisory panel to assist the bicentennial commission. One of his suggestions has attracted much favorable reaction, namely, the recommendation that a limited issue of 50c fractional currency be made during 1976 only.

In his "from the President's Desk, p. 1261 of The Numismatist for September Bergen writes:-

> **"The advocacy of a fractional currency issue is not meant to give the impression that advocacy of a commemorative coin issue will be in low key. What is desired by this is that our members will support the fractional currency proposal as strongly as they will support the commemorative coin proposal. Many members will certainly contact their Congressional representatives and ask them to support a commemorative coin issue. We urge that they also ask for support of the fractional currency issue."**

We do hope that many of you will follow the suggestion and get letters off to your congressmen as a positive move in behalf of our hobby to begin this new year.

✧

Real life must have some heroic force in it, else it only breathes, but does not live. Horace Bushnell

✧

LOOK AHEAD: You are not required to complete the task. Neither are you permitted to lay it down.

—The Talmud

from the secretary

Texas Numismatic Association

Mrs. Augusta Felda
420 Heritage Drive
Tyler, Texas 75701

Welcome to new members 2136 - J-2145.

If approved the following will become members February 1, 1971.

J-2160 (D-3) Mike Cole 1773 N. 12th. Abilene, Tx. 79604. Nolan County Coin Club

J-2161 (D-3) Douglas Williams. 1309 James Sweetwater, Tx 79566 Nolan County Coin Club.

J-2162 (D-3) Scott Hensley. 1908 Morris. Sweetwater, Tx. 79566. Nolan County Coin Club.

J-2163 (D-3) Robert Spencer. Hillcrest Apts., Sweetwater, Tx. 78566 Nolan County Coin Club.

J-2164 (D-3) Richard Hamilton 901 Silas, Sweetwater, Tx. 78566. Nolan County Coin Club.

J-2165 (D-3) Bruce Hamilton, 901 Silas, Sweetwater, Tx. 78566, Nolan County Coin Club

J-2166 (D-3) David L. Williams Box 1025, Sweetwater Tx. 78566 Nolan County Coin Club.

J-2167 (D-3) Mike Monroe, 713 E Arizona, Sweetwater, Tx 78566 Nolan County Coin Club.

J-2168 (D-3) Pat Monroe, 713 E Arizona, Sweetwater, Tx. 78566 Nolan County Coin Club.

J-2169 (D-3) Charles McDormand 1415 Edgewood, Sweetwater, Tx. 78566, Nolan County Coin Club.

DECEASED

1165 (D-3) Col. H. W. Pontius. Box 3242. San Angelo, Tx. 76901.

ADDRESS CHANGE

960 (D-13) Wm. Rust, Sr. 81. Ohio, Wichita Falls, Tx. 76301.

✧ ✧ ✧

FEB. 26, 27, 28, 1971

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from the treasurer

Texas Numismatic Association

Stanford M. Kennady

2901 Silverleaf Dr., Austin, Texas 78757

Balance on hand as of October 31 1970		$1,858.25
RECEIPTS.		
TNA News Ads	205.50	
TNA Dues	20.00	
Sale of 1970 Medals	60.00	285.50
		$5,143.75
DISBURSEMENTS.		
TNA News Editor-November travel allowance & October petty cash	$1.00	
Banner Printing Co.-printing and supplies	37.85	
Banner Printing Co.		220.90
Print Oct. issue-347 copies	160.00	
Postage	52.71	
Mailing Stencils	8.19	339.75
		$4,804.00
Balance on hand as of November 30, 1970		$4,804.00
*Operating Funds		$4,621.36
*Ear-marked Funds		182.64*

NOTE. The following funds cannot be used for anything except the purposes for which they are ear-marked. The balance above includes these funds except as noted below.

TNA Memorial Library Fund-October 31, 1970	$182.64
No receipts-No disbursements -0-	
Balance as of November 30, 1970	182.64

TNA News Continuance Fund Certificate of Deposit	$1,328.30

(This amount is not shown in the balance above.)

THE GOVERNMENT OF TEXAS –
(Continued from Page 5)

ber as high as 100.

The late Louis Lenz of Houston collected Texana for over fifty years and he had the only complete set of these notes that I ever saw of the dates and signatures mentioned in this article.

To sum this up, there exist the following $10, $20, and $50, Government of Texas Notes.

DECEMBER 10, 1838

Henry Smith, Treasurer - Sam Houston, President

Henry Smith, Treasurer - Mirabeau B. Lamar, President

Note! The last day of the Houston administration and the first day of the Lamar administration, all notes carry serial numbers above 3,000.

DECEMBER 15, 1838

Henry Smith, Treasurer - Mirabeau B. Lamar, President

Note! Serial numbers below 200.

DECEMBER 24, 1838

R. G. Dunlap, Treasurer - Mirabeau B. Lamar, President

Note! Serial numbers below 100.

It is possible that other serial numbers exist and maybe some dates so the writer would appreciate hearing from anyone having other information.

EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY 29-31

GREATER HOUSTON COIN CLUB, 14th Money Show, Rice Hotel, Bourse, Bob Astrich, Box 2963 Houston, 77001.

✧

FEBRUARY 6-7

SOUTH PLAINS COIN CLUB, Lubbock, Koko Palace. Write club: Box 106, Lubbock.

FEBRUARY 21

CENLA, LA. COIN CLUB, annual coin show, Convention Center, Murray at Third. Contact Bill Kearns, 1003 Bolton Ave., Alexandria, La. 71301.

✧

FEBRUARY 27-28

INTERNATIONAL COIN CLUB, El Paso, 8th annual coin show, Bassett Center Rodeway Inn. Write club at Box 3756, El Paso 79923.

✧

MARCH 27-28

PORT ARTHUR COIN CLUB, 22th annual coin show, Thomas Jefferson High School cafeteria. Write Lloyd Buss, Box 3081, Port Arthur 77640.

✧ ✧ ✧

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RICE HOTEL

JANUARY 29, 30, 31, 1971

JANUARY 28, 29, 30, 1971

10:00 A. M. - 10:00 P. M. FRIDAY & SATURDAY

10:00 A. M. - 6 P. M. SUNDAY

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TEXAS DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT THREE:

Thirty three attended the November meeting of **San Angelo Coin Club** when plans were made for the annual Christmas Banquet. Plans included presenting awards to the senior and junior numismatist of the year. The senior award trophy was donated by Ellis Brooks and Bill Brothers gave the junior trophy.

Fred Clark
Governor

As the wrong film was sent by Modern Talking Picture Services, Inc. for Lynn Langston's program on the Franklin Mint, Brooks gave a talk on the Benjamin Franklin half dollar and showed a display of the half dollars. - **Lynn Langston, Reporter.**

✧

Election of new officers for **Nolan County Coin Club** of Sweetwater have been announced and James W. Williams will serve as president. Assisting will be Ted Weaver, first vice president, Walter Hamilton, second vice president, Pat Panzer, treasurer.

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News Editor

and Ben Monroe and Charlie Fletcher board of directors.

Fred Clark of San Angelo gave the program on American dollars. The club voted to have the annual Christmas party at Sweetwater Country Club. —**James W. Williams, Sec.**

✧

DISTRICT FOUR:

The **Heart of Texas Coin & Stamp Club** of Waco held a Christmas dinner at Texas Power and Light Service Center. Members exchanged gifts and door prizes were given.

Ray Kirkpatrick
Governor

A special award was given Mrs. Velma Follett for signing up the most club members for the year. The award was a $5.00 gold piece. Another gold piece was presented J. C. Nash when he won the drawing for the attendance prize.

New officers are Richard Cook, president; Mrs. Follett, vice president, and Mrs. Jim Moen, secretary-treasurer. —**Richard Cook, Sec.**

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Jim Shannon will head the **Waco Coin Club** as president following election of officers. Others to serve are Norris Schwartz, first vice president, Bill Maresh second vice president, and J. P. Jones, secretary-treasurer.

The evening's program was a T.N.A. Memorial Library slide set entitled "C.S.A. Currency." **J. P. Jose, Sec.**

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DISTRICT FIVE:

At the November meeting of **Dallas Coin Club** the following officers

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GALVESTON ISLAND COIN SHOW
1971

MARCH 6th & 7th

IN THE GALVEZ HOTEL

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- THIS SHOW HAS ALWAYS BEEN RATED AS ONE OF THE BEST OF THE YEAR
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GALVESTON ISLAND COIN SHOW
CHAIRMAN
E. E. "Sarge" White, 1109 Estates Dr., LaMarque, Texas 77568

were elected for 1971

Robert Lee Hewgley, Jr president William A. Marr, vice president, Earl S. Hirsheimer, secretary-treasurer, Wm A Philpott, Jr., ANA representative, and Tom Bain, TNA representative —**Earl S. Hirsheimer, Sec.**

✧

At a recent meeting of **Texomaland Coin & Stamp Club**, Mrs Pat Segal and son, Dan, demonstrated the use of their treasure finding equipment and displayed many of the items which they had found.

A Christmas party was held in December and officers for 1971 were installed by visiting president of **Dallas Lost Coin Club.** New officers are Chas. A Wingo, president, Lowell Thompson, vice president M J. Reesby, secretary, and John Megginson, treasurer

The members with their families and guests, enjoyed a games session for numismatic prizes followed by refreshments —**Chas. A. Wingo, TNA Rep.**

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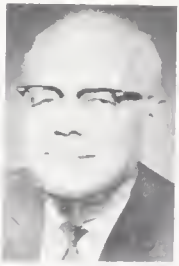
DISTRICT SIX:



T. G. Brown
Governor

TNA officers have been nominated by members of **Beaumont Coin Club** and they are

Lyman Bartee Austin president Fred W. Clark San Angelo, first vice president; Col Charles Wingo, Denison, second vice president, Augusta Folds, Tyler, secretary, Stanford (Mac) Kennady, Austin, treasurer, and Charlotte Nichols Houston, governor District VI —**C. L. Babcock, Pres.**

✧

La Marque Coin Club ended 1970 with the annual Christmas party in December Arrangements were made by Mrs. Charles Lehmann, Mrs. Lon Allen, Mrs. J. C Akey and Mrs. Hugh Threlkeld.

Programs for the November meetings were given by Ruby Threlkeld and S. B. Johnson. Ruby talked on "My Favorite Wooden Nickels." On display were nickels from the wooden money clubs Christmas nickels from club members, wooden calendars, wedding announcements from "Alice and Steve", wooden certificate, store cards and some of the Lamours Sambo nickels from the many restaurants over the United States

Johnson spoke on "Coins of Mexico" and displayed a set of the 5 and 10 pesos, gold coins, year set of Mexico and a set of centavos.

New officers have been elected to serve in 1971 and they are. John M Shepherd, president, Anthony Caso, vice president, Ruby Threlkeld, secretary-treasurer, and new directors Mrs. Charles Lehmann and S. B. Johnson. Hold over directors are. Mrs. Ben Mitchell, J. C. Akey, Hugh Threlkeld, M B. Warren and A. A. Graf. —**Ruby Threlkeld, Sec.**

✧

Final plans for the coin show January 29-31 at Rice Hotel were made by **Greater Houston Coin Club** and plans were also discussed for the annual Christmas party Silver dollars and gold were to be prizes and ladies of the club were to prepare Christmas refreshments.

Election of officers was held and those serving are. Robert Astrich president Charlotte Nichols, vice president, A J Lamer secretary, Don Hoge, treasurer, Sgt. at Arms Stuart Bamberger a junior member Board elections include R F Walker and C C Hutchinson The club approved a slate of TNA officers to be submitted for nomination in the upcoming state elections Mrs Nichols was nominated for governor, District

VI.

Subject of the program for the evening was MINI-Exhibits. Mrs Nichols, new vice president and program chairman, and exhibit co-chairman for the January coin show, moderated a discussion on what makes a good exhibit. There were seven exhibits entered by club members and using the judging sheet prepared for the show. Virgil Hancock marked the information portion of each exhibit. Two silver dollars awarded for the best exhibit went to Chris Johns. **—Chris Johns, Reporter.**

✧

The **Port Arthur Coin Club** will host a coin show March 27-28 at Thomas Jefferson High School cafeteria, corner Jefferson Drive and Dryden Road. It is the club's 12th annual show.

For information write Lloyd Buss box 3081, Port Arthur 77640 **—Eugene F. Davis, Publicity.**

✧

DISTRICT EIGHT:

John L. Chisum
Governor

At the November meeting of **Corpus Christi Coin Club** sixteen members and two visitors heard a program based on Library I, Volume I of the International Numismatic Collectors Society entitled "The Heritage of Coin" by Thomas Becker. Slides in the volume were used to illustrate the talk by Norma Mather.

The November 23 meeting, held at the regular meeting place, Gulfway National Bank was attended by elev

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SOUTH PLAINS COIN CLUB BOURSE & SHOW

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LUBBOCK, TEXAS

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February 7th - 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Door prizes daily including three grand prizes of BU $20 Gold Pieces. Competitive Displays.

ADMISSION FREE

on. It was voted to join with **Liberty Coin Club** of Corpus Christi in putting on a show March 20-21.

An "other hobby" program was presented with exhibits of bottles, an explanation of the process of "purpling" class bottles, showing of a gavel made from material from the White House obtained during repair, a china head doll which had belonged to a member's mother, and Powatomi Indian arrow heads. —**Norma Mather, Reporter.**

✧

Bill Brinson was in charge of the program in December for **World Coin Club** of Corpus Christi. Members were asked to bring coins for trading.

At one of the meetings a visitor gave a talk on coins she had found in her travels through Libya.

✧

The 193rd meeting of **Harlingen Coin Club** was held November 16. Reports were made on the November coin show held at Richard's Sun Valley Motel. Dealers attended from San Antonio, Corpus Christi and throughout the Valley.

A committee was named to present a slate of officers for 1971. — **Genoer N. Dabley, Sec.**

✧

DISTRICT NINE:

A change in date for the annual Spring coin show sponsored by **South Plains Coin Club** of Lubbock is being announced. The new dates will be February 6-7 at the Koko Palace in Lubbock.

O. O. Joplin
Governor

For more information contact the club at Box 106, Lubbock. —**T. V. O'Donnell, Reporter.**

✧

Sixteen dealers and approximately 25 visitors attended the November coin show sponsored by **Lamb County Coin Club** of Littlefield. Exhibit winners were Mrs. Terry Varnell Lest in show, U. S. coins, Mrs. Varnell and Alton Logsdon, foreign, E. L. Etzer; D. O. Joplin, Larry Sanderson, special, Joplin and Joe B. Markham. Also, in the junior category winners of a special drawing were B. M. Morrow, Nilah Rogers and John McAnally.

At the regular meeting of the club attended by 26, reports were given on the show followed by a quiz on Walking Liberty half dollars by D. O. Joplin. —**D. O. Joplin, Gov. Dist. 9.**

✧

Members of **Levelland Coin & Stamp Club** made plans for a Christmas dinner in December and reports were heard on the upcoming Spring coin show.

Jim Hall gave pointers on judging displays and D. O. Joplin conducted a quiz from Q. David Bowers column. —**D. O. Joplin, Gov. Dist. 9.**

✧

DISTRICT TEN:

Members of **International Coin Club** of El Paso will hold their eighth annual coin show on February 27-28 at Passett Center Rodeway Inn.

Write club for further information at Box 3756, El Paso 79923.

5th ANNUAL

COIN SHOW

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DISTRICT THIRTEEN:

Wm. Rust
Governor

New officers to serve **Wichita Falls Coin & Stamp Club** are M. L. Goolsby president, Ross Foley, vice president, Roger Paulk, secretary, Pat Boruff, treasurer, Mrs G. M Howard publicity.

Also Goolsby, Marvin Booher Vayle Armstrong Wm Rust, Jr. and Mrs. Woody Taylor, executive committee Paulk TNA representative; and Pat Boruff American Philatelic Society, representative Officers were to be installed at the December Christmas dinner at Underwood's Cafeteria.

In charge of arrangements for the dinner were to be Paulk, Mrs. H. H Hallmark, Mrs. Woody Taylor, Mrs Polly Horn and Jay O Henson.

Goolsby spoke to the group on the stamp showing the first steps on the moon and gave the history and facts about the stamp. —**Mrs. G. M. Howard, Publicity.**

✧ ✧ ✧

PORT ARTHUR AND ANAT SHARE SHOW PROFITS

The Greater Port Arthur Coin Club split its profits from its show right down the middle with the American Numismatic Authentication Trust (ANAT), sending its check for $241.50 to ANAT trustee Virgil Hancock.

The Port Arthur show was held in conjunction with the city's "Cavoilcade" festival. Joe O'Neal, the Port Arthur club's president, reports attendance at about 2,000. The event was titled "Cavoilcade" because so much of Port Arthur's industry is allied mainly with petroleum.

While ANAT has collected the $50,000 the trustees agreed to collect, and ANA has started the legal work to complete the take-over of ANAT, inflation has increased prices since the $50,000 figure was set nearly four years ago, and thus the Port Arthur contribution is most welcome to apply toward the extra $10,000 ANAT needs to match the inflation.

When Hancock thanked the Port Arthur club, he added, "When a fairly small club, as Port Arthur, can raise $241.50 for an authenticating service needed as desperately as ANAT IS needed, I can't for the life of me understand why most clubs have set on their hands or other parts of their collective anatomy, and not sent one red cent to ANAT."

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BELGIUM, BELGIQUE OR BELGIE?

By DONALD ROSE,
Intercoin

French or Flemish? This question has plagued Belgians for many centuries. Since 1885, by Belgian law, every coin minted in Belgium must be struck in two different varieties—one with the French inscription, the other with the Flemish. The only exceptions are those coins struck bearing both languages, or the singular example of the 1960 Baudouin-Fabiola marriage commemorative, which bore inscriptions in Latin. Why? How did this law come into being? In answering this question, we first must first learn a little Belgian history.

Belgium, at the beginning of the Christian era, was settled for the most part by the Celts (Walloons) a Germanic tribe which was quickly Romanized under the Roman Empire. Later, other Germans (Flemings) infiltrated the northern part of Belgium so heavily that it was almost entirely Flemish. Because of physical barriers, as well as language and cultural barriers, the Walloons and Flemings were isolated from each other. The Walloons, having been Romanized, picked up the French language while the comparatively uncivilized Flemings developed their Flemish language. The language barrier has remained practically the same until modern times, although French control of Belgium, during the Napoleonic Wars did much to spread French influence in Belgium.

There are several reasons that Belgium's became one united country instead of two smaller countries. The most important of these is that the Walloons, with their close association with Germany over many centuries, and the Flemings with the impact of French influence during the French occupation, have come to understand and respect each other. Also, even though there is a language difference, the French and the Flemish are very similar and have a lot in common. A third reason is that most of the cities, particularly Brussels, are amalgamations of French and Flemish, many of whom know both languages.

When Belgium finally became an independent country under the rule of Leopold I (1831-1865) and issued her own coinage, the inscriptions were in French even though the majority of the people spoke Flemish which is very similar to Dutch (it has been said that Flemish is to Dutch what American is to English.)

With the rule of Leopold II (1865-1909) came the legislation which provided for coins of two different varieties, bearing the inscriptions in two different languages: French ("Belgique") and Flemish ("Belgie".) The law has remained in effect until today, and it is unlikely to be changed.

French and Flemish live, work, and get along well together, but neither would agree to taking their language off the country's coins, and both languages are the official languages of Belgium. So remember as you assemble a type collection of Belgian coins, that for a complete set, you need coins with French and with Flemish inscriptions.

The maximum number of complete sets of commemorative half dollars that can be assembled is 2,003 because only 2,003 Daniel Boone commemoratives were struck at the Denver mint in 1935.

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